REMARKS

Claims 1-22, 24-39, 41-64, 66-80, and 82-88 are currently pending. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowance of Claims 29-34 and 36-38. Claims 1-7, 13, 22-25, 26-28, 35 and 39-88 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,397,199, issued to Goodwin, III (hereinafter "Goodwin"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,177,825, issued to Borders et al. (hereinafter "Borders et al."). Claims 8-12 and 14-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goodwin, in view of Borders et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0243478, to Walker et al. (hereinafter "Walker et al."). Claims 44-71 have been canceled without prejudice.

A.   Rejection of Claims 1-7, 13, and 22-25 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

1.   Claims 1-22 and 24-43

As indicated above, Claims 1-7, 13, 22-28, 35, and 39-43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,397,199, issued to Goodwin, in view of Borders et al.

In their entirety, independent Claims 1 and 26 recite:

> 1.   A method implemented in a computer device for processing an available inventory item query corresponding to inventory items defined by inventory information, the method comprising:
> storing a set of available inventory information according to a three level hierarchy, wherein the three level hierarchy includes:
> at least one group record defining a first level of detail for inventory information, wherein the first level of detail of each group record comprises information common to all item category records and inventory records below the group record in the hierarchy;
> a set of item category records defining a second level of detail that is associated to a referenced group record and corresponds to types of inventory items for the referenced group, wherein the second level of detail of each item category record comprises information common to all inventory records below the item category record in the hierarchy;
> inventory records defining a third level of detail corresponding to instances of inventory item types referenced by at least two of the set of item category records, wherein the third level of detail of each inventory record in the hierarchy describes distinct instances of inventory items than that of another inventory record, the distinct instances of inventory items including price with price adjustments applied to the price;
> obtaining, by the computer device, a supplier batch inventory query, the query including a set of criteria;

determining at least one inventory item matching the supplier batch query criteria based on at least one group record, item category record and inventory record; and

transmitting matching group record, item category record, and inventory record data for the matching inventory item.

26.   A method implemented by a computer device for processing an inventory action request corresponding to one or more inventory items defined by inventory information, the method comprising:

storing a set of available inventory information according to a three level hierarchy, wherein the three level hierarchy includes:

at least one group record defining a first level of detail for inventory information, wherein the first level of detail of each group record comprises information common to all item category records and inventory records below the group record in the hierarchy;

a set of item category records defining a second level of detail that is associated to a referenced group record and corresponds to types of inventory items for the referenced group, wherein the second level of detail includes date information associated with the inventory items, and wherein the second level of detail of each item category record comprises information common to all inventory records below the item category record in the hierarchy;

inventory records defining a third level of detail corresponding to instances of inventory item types referenced by the set of item category records, wherein the third level of detail of each inventory record in the hierarchy describes distinct inventory instances of item types than that of another inventory record, the distinct inventory instances of item types including price with price adjustments applied to the price;

obtaining, by the computer device, an inventory action request, the inventory action request including an identification of at least one specific group record, item category record, and inventory record;

processing the inventory action request; and

transmitting the results of the processing of the inventory action request

wherein the inventory action request includes a supplier batch inventory action request, the batch inventory action request including an identification of one or more group records, item category records, inventory records, and inventory modification data, and wherein processing the inventory action request includes:

identifying at least one group record, item category record, and inventory record corresponding to the batch inventory action request; and

updating the identified at least one group record, item category record, and inventory record with the inventory modification data from the batch inventory action request.

Applicants again thank the Examiner for the indicated allowability of Claims 29-34 and 36-38. Claim 29 has been rewritten in independent form. Independent Claims 1 and 26 have been amended in a manner similar to Claim 29. Specifically, Claim 1 recites "obtaining, by the computer device, a supplier batch inventory query, the query including a set of criteria" and "determining at least one inventory item matching the supplier batch query criteria based on at least one group record, item category record and inventory record." Claim 26 recites "wherein the inventory action request includes a supplier batch inventory action request, the batch inventory action request including an identification of one or more group records, item category records, inventory records, and inventory modification data" and "updating the identified at least one group record, item category record, and inventory record with the inventory modification data from the batch inventory action request." For at least the same reasons relied upon by the Office Action in determining the allowability of Claims 29-34, applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1 and 26 are also allowable over the cited and applied references. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and allowance of the claims.

Claims 2-22 depend from independent Claim 1, Claims 27 and 28 depend from independent Claim 26, and Claims 30-43 depend from allowed Claim 29. For at least the reasons discussed above with regard to the respective independent claims, applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-22, 27, 28, and 30-43 are also allowable over the cited and applied art. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 2-22, 27, 28, and 30-43 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and allowance of the claims.

2.   **Claims 72-84 and 85-88**

As indicated above, Claims 44-84 and 85-88 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,397,199, issued to Goodwin, in view of Borders et al. To facilitate the progress of the present application, Claims 44-71 have been canceled without prejudice and applicants reserve the right to continue to pursue the subject matter associated with Claims 44-71 in a separate application.

In their entirety, independent Claims 72 and 82 recite:

72.   A system for storing and managing one or more inventory items utilizing inventory information, the system comprising:

at least one inventory supplier operable to provide the one or more inventory items and to transmit at least one supplier batch inventory action request;

a travel server operable to store one or more inventory items defined by inventory information in a three level hierarchy, wherein the three level hierarchy includes:

at least one group record defining a first level of detail for inventory information, wherein the first level of detail of each group record comprises information common to all item category records and inventory records below the group record in the hierarchy;

a set of item category records defining a second level of detail that is associated to a referenced group record and corresponds to types of inventory items for the referenced group, wherein the second level of detail includes date information associated with the inventory items, wherein the second level of detail of each item category record comprises information common to all inventory records below the item category record in the hierarchy;

inventory records defining a third level of detail corresponding to instances of inventory item types referenced by the set of item category records, wherein the third level of detail of each inventory record in the hierarchy describes distinct instances of inventory items than that of another inventory record, the distinct instances of inventory items including price with price adjustments applied to the price; and

wherein the travel server is operable to communicate with the inventory suppliers and process the supplier batch inventory action requests corresponding to the one or more group records, item category records, and inventory records and wherein the travel server processes the supplier batch inventory unit request according to the item category record and inventory records.

82.   A system for managing inventory utilizing inventory information, the system comprising:

at least one client computing device operable to issue a supplier batch inventory query, the query including a set of criteria;

a travel server operable to store one or more inventory items defined by inventory information in a three level hierarchy, wherein the three level hierarchy includes:

at least one group record defining a first level of detail for inventory information, wherein the first level of detail of each group record comprises information common to all item category records and inventory records below the group record in the hierarchy;

a set of item category records defining a second level of detail that is associated to a referenced group record and corresponds to types of inventory items for the referenced group, wherein the second level of detail of each item category record comprises information common to all inventory records below the item category record in the hierarchy;

inventory records defining a third level of detail corresponding to instances of inventory item types referenced by at least two of the set of item category records, wherein the third level of detail of each inventory record in the hierarchy describes distinct instances of inventory items than that of another inventory record, the distinct instances of inventory items including price with price adjustments applied to the price; and

wherein the travel server is operable to identify one or more group records, item category records, and inventory records matching the supplier batch inventory query criteria submitted by the client computing device.

Independent Claims 72 and 82 have been amended in a manner similar to Claim 29. Specifically, Claim 72 recites "at least one inventory supplier operable to provide the one or more inventory items and to transmit at least one supplier batch inventory action request" and "wherein the travel server is operable to communicate with the inventory suppliers and process the supplier batch inventory action requests corresponding to the one or more group records, item category records, and inventory records and wherein the travel server processes the supplier batch inventory unit request according to the item category record and inventory records." Claim 82 incorporates the subject matter previously recited in canceled dependent Claim 84 and recites "wherein the travel server is operable to identify one or more group records, item category records, and inventory records matching the supplier batch inventory query criteria submitted by the client computing device." For at least the same reasons relied upon by the Office Action in determining the allowability of Claims 29-34, applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 72 and 82 are also allowable over the cited and applied references. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 72 and 82 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and allowance of the claims.

Claims 73-81 depend from independent Claim 72, Claims 83 and 85-88 depend from independent Claim 82. For at least the reasons discussed above with regard to the respective independent claims, applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 73-81, 83, and 85-88 are also allowable over the cited and applied art. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 73-81, 83, and 85-88 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and allowance of the claims.

No Disclaimers or Disavowals

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, applicants are not conceding in this

application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child, or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that applicants have made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

Co-Pending Applications of Assignee

Applicants wish to draw the Examiner's attention to the following co-pending applications of the present application's assignee.

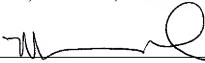| Docket No.	Serial No.	Title	Filed
EXIN.010A	09/932,263	SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MANAGING RESERVATION REQUESTS FOR ONE OR MORE INVENTORY ITEMS	August 17, 2001

II. CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the remaining claims of the present application, Claims 1-22, 24-43, 72-83, and 85-88 are allowable and such allowance is requested. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at his convenience.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: September 8, 2009   By: _____

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AMEND   7615375 tmm 081009

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